

AMENDMENTS

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1, 21 and 26 as follows:

1. (Four Times Amended) A therapeutic combination for promoting wound healing in mammals, comprising:

a porous pad which is permeable to fluids and adapted for positioning within a sealable space defined in part by a wound surface;

a tube having a first end in fluid communication with said porous pad;

G¹ a canister for collecting fluids sucked through said tube, said canister being connected in fluid communication with a second end of said tube which is opposite the first end of said tube;

a suction pump for applying negative pressure to said tube, said suction pump being [fluidically] connected [to] in fluid communication with said canister;

said porous pad being an open cell pad adapted to transmit negative pressure to the wound surface for promoting healing of the wound; and

at least one bacterial filter interposed in the fluid connection between said canister and said pump[, said bacterial filter comprising a 0.2 micron hydrophobic membrane filter].

G² 21. (Once Amended) A therapeutic combination as claimed in claim [21] 20 further comprising a delay circuit, said delay circuit being adapted to delay for a predetermined time period the discontinuation of negative pressure resultant detection of tilting of said canister.

26. (Once Amended) A therapeutic combination for promoting wound healing in mammals, comprising:

a porous pad comprising a reticulated foam having at least 90% interconnecting cells and which is permeable to fluids and adapted for positioning within a sealable space defined in part by a wound surface;

a tube having a first end in fluid communication with said porous pad;

a canister for collecting fluids sucked through said tube, said canister being connected in fluid communication with a second end of said tube which is opposite the first end of said tube;

a suction pump for applying negative pressure to said tube, said suction pump being fluidically connected to said canister;

a bacterial filter interposed said canister and said pump;

a first sensor for detecting when said canister is substantially full with fluid and a second sensor for determining tilting of said combination beyond a predetermined angle, said first and second sensors being associated with said pump to discontinue operation thereof in the event of a sensed condition; and

a pressure transducer for determining the negative pressure delivered to the wound site, said pressure transducer being associated with said pump for controlling operation thereof.

REMARKS

Claims 2 through 7 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim that which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, claim 2 is objected to for language reciting that the "bacterial filter is located substantially within said canister," which the Office contends to be inconsistent with the recitation of claim 1. In an attempt to finally address this issue, Applicant has once again amended claim 1 for clarity. The recitation in claim 1 refers to the functional arrangement of the components, requiring only that the bacterial filter be placed in the fluid flow between the canister and the pump; the recited language does not otherwise limit the filter to any particular location relative to the canister or to the pump. The recitation of claim 2,